

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY
IN PATENT APPLICATION

As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that:

my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name;

I believe that I am the original, first and joint inventor of the subject matter that is claimed and for which patent is sought on the invention entitled: ALKALINE PULP HAVING LOW AVERAGE DEGREE OF POLYMERIZATION VALUES AND METHOD OF PRODUCING THE SAME, the specification of which is attached hereto.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(a)-(c) of any foreign application(s) for patent listed below and have also identified below, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed: NONE

Prior Foreign Application(s):

| <u>Number</u> | <u>Country</u> | <u>Day/Month/Year Filed</u> | <u>Priority Claimed</u> <u>Yes/No</u> |
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|---------------|----------------|-----------------------------|--|

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(d) of any inventor's certificate listed below. I declare that, upon investigation, I am satisfied that to the best of my knowledge, when filing the application for the inventor's certificate I had the option to file an application for either a patent or an inventor's certificate as to the subject matter of the identified claim or claims forming the basis for the claim of priority: NONE

Prior Foreign Inventor's Certificate(s):

| <u>Number</u> | <u>Country</u> | <u>Day/Month/Year Filed</u> | <u>Priority Claimed</u> <u>Yes/No</u> |
|---------------|----------------|-----------------------------|--|
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I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below: NONE

Provisional Application(s):

| <u>Application No.</u> | <u>Filing Date</u> | <u>Status</u> |
|------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| 60/023,909 | August 23, 1996 | abandoned |
| 60/024,462 | August 23, 1996 | abandoned |

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s) or PCT international application(s) designating the United States listed below, and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

Prior U.S. Applications(s):

| <u>Application No.</u> | <u>Filing Date</u> | <u>Status</u> |
|------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| 09/256,197 | February 24, 1999 | pending |
| 09/185,423 | November 3, 1998 | pending |
| 09/039,737 | March 16, 1998 | pending |
| 08/916,652 | August 22, 1997 | abandoned |

I hereby appoint the following attorneys and/or agents to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith: Bruce E. O'Connor, Reg. No. 24,849; Lee E. Johnson, Reg. No. 22,946; Gary S. Kindness, Reg. No. 22,178; James W. Anable, Reg. No. 26,827; James R. Uhler, Reg. No. 25,096; Jerald E. Nagae, Reg. No. 29,418; Dennis K. Shelton, Reg. No. 26,997; Jeffrey M. Sakoi, Reg. No. 32,059; Ward Brown, Reg. No. 28,400; Robert J. Carlson, Reg. No. 35,472; Marcia S. Kelbon, Reg. No. 34,358; Rodney C. Tullett, Reg. No. 34,034; Daiva K. Tautvydas, Reg. No. 36,077; Mary L. Čulić, Reg. No. 40,574; and the firm of Christensen O'Connor Johnson & Kindness^{PLLC}. Address all telephone calls to Jeffrey M. Sakoi at telephone No. 206.695.1713.

I hereby grant the following attorneys and/or agents an associate power of attorney with full power to prosecute this application and transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith: John M. Crawford, Reg. No. 19,670; Keith D. Gehr, Reg. No. 24,407; Bryan C. Ogden, Reg. No. 25,362; Stanley D. Schwartz, Reg. No. 25,374; Teresa J. Wiant, Reg. No. 36,967.